

Minutes of the January 21, 2004 Meeting  
Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Building

Present: Robert Dahn (chairman), Quentin Kessel, Lanse Minkler, John Silander, Robert Thorson and Frank Trainor.

Absent: Denise Burchsted and Jennifer Kaufman.

Town Staff: Grant Meitzler, Inland Wetlands Agent

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:35 PM.
2. The Minutes of the December 17, 2003 meeting were approved, following a motion by Minkler, seconded by Trainor.

3. New Business.

a) It was voted to commend CC member Robert Thorson for his fine article in the PLACE series "Commentary About Where We Live," in the Sunday, January 18, 2004 editorial section of the Hartford Courant. The article was titled "The Sand Trap - What Keeps Our Roads Safe In Winter Is Harming Our Streams And Wetlands," and included photographs of silt and sand runoff-filled wetlands and culverts.

b) Fenton River. The CC reviewed the OPM map titled, "Proposed Plan of Conservation and Development Areas, Town of Mansfield, CT," provided by DEP's Eric Thomas. Frustration was expressed that DEP's Corinne Fitting has yet to answer the CC's request for copies of memos or scientific justification for the aquifer protection guideline that excludes drainage basins being drained by perennial streams from "Level A/B Aquifer Protection" On the Conservation and Development Area map, this significantly affects two drainage basins that contribute to the Fenton aquifer utilized by the University of Connecticut and the Town of Mansfield. The streams draining these basins, an unnamed brook on the east side of the Fenton River and Fishers Brook on the west side, clearly disappear into the stratified drift of the aquifer during dry periods, never reaching the river as surface runoff. Because of the otherwise regular flow in these streams, one could reasonably argue that year around, they contribute more water to the aquifer than do the neighboring watersheds, which are given the greater Level A/B Aquifer Protection on the proposed map. The CC voted unanimously to address this issue in a letter to Arthur Rocque, Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (Attachment 1).

c) Torrey Boundary Marking Update. Dahn and Kessel have marked most of the boundary with ribbons. Dahn will obtain a copy of the map for the Town-owned property that was deeded to the Town as a part of the Holley Drive subdivision, so that they may complete the job.

d) Shelter Falls Boundary. Silander volunteered to help with the marking of this property.

e) Town Plan of Conservation and Development. An email from Kaufman reported that the Lands of Unique Value study has been completed and can be viewed on the on the Town's web page. The Town is still working with the consultant to ensure

full use of digital mapping issues. It is expected that the LUV mapping will be able to be modified for incorporation into a finalized Town Plan. During the next few months' staff will be working with a subcommittee of the Planning and Zoning Commission and other Town committees to complete a draft plan update for presentation to the public.

#### 4. IWA Referrals.

W1243 - Gorin - White Oak Road. Map date 11/17/03. This is an application for a new residence on a lot previously approved but now beyond the 10 year statutory permit time limit. Kessel moved, and Trainor seconded, that this construction should have no significant negative impact on the nearby wetlands as long as the sedimentation and erosion controls shown on the map were in place during construction and removed after the site has stabilized. The motion passed unanimously.

W1244 - Andalib - Browns Road. Map date 12/01/03. This is an application for a new residence on the "first cut" parcel of the recent Parrow Subdivision. Kessel moved, and Trainor seconded, that this construction should have no significant negative impact on the nearby wetlands as long as the sedimentation and erosion controls shown on the map were in place during construction and removed after the site has stabilized. The motion passed unanimously.

W1245 - Adams - Wormwood Hill Road. Map date 12/5/03. This is an application for a 3-lot subdivision, one lot of which is the existing house. Kessel moved, and Silander seconded that the CC express concern on two issues.

i) The possible negative impact on the wetlands and urge IWA to do everything possible to minimize the impact.

ii) The proposed conservation area consists of land of limited use or conservation value in that it fails to link up with any significant natural area. The CC asks that the IWA/PZC consider asking for an easement on the eastern portion of lot 3, either in addition to or in place of the proposed area. The CC notes that an easement may be written so as not to preclude farming, forest management, or other activities that might be specified by the owner in the easement document.

The motion passed unanimously.

W1246 - Town of Mansfield - Birch Road. Map date 7/8/03. This project is for intersection improvement work. The drainage portion of the work involves a considerable extension of drainage from the Goodwin School area to an outlet on Birch Road. The CC expressed concern that the extended drainage system might contribute additional road runoff directly to the wetlands. With this reservation Minkler moved, and Dahn seconded, that this construction should have no significant negative impact on the nearby wetlands as long as the sedimentation and erosion controls shown on the map were in place during construction and removed after the site has stabilized. The vote was 4 in favor of the motion with 1 against and 1 abstention.

#### 5. The meeting adjourned at 8:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Quentin Kessel  
Secretary